## NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

October 24, 2016



Cook County
Bureau of Economic Development
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 2900
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 603-1000

On or about November 1, 2016, Cook County will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Community Planning and Development for the release of HUD Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds, authorized by the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-2), to undertake a project known as the Residential Resilience Program. The proposed project would rehabilitate owner-occupied, single family homes (one to four units) that were affected by severe storms and flooding that occurred throughout the Chicago area between April and May 2013. Funding would assist residents with clean-up from the effects of flooding and to help install flood mitigation elements to minimize future flooding. Approximately 320 homes throughout suburban Cook County are anticipated in the program. The estimated total project cost is \$12,000,000, entirely funded with HUD CDBG-DR funds.

The environmental review of this proposed project was tiered and once specific homes are identified for rehabilitation, a supplementary site specific environmental review will be prepared addressing: airport hazards; floodplain management and flood insurance; coastal zone management; contamination and toxic substances; historic preservation; wetlands protection; and environmental justice.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, Department of Planning and Development, 69 W. Washington Street, Suite 2900, Chicago, Illinois 60602 and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M to 5 P.M. or viewed online at <a href="https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/public-notices-planning-and-development-0">https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/public-notices-planning-and-development-0</a>.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the attention of Jeffrey Wiseman, Housing Project Manager at Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, Department of Planning and Development, 69 W. Washington Street, Suite 2900, Chicago, Illinois 60602 or <a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Wiseman@cookcountyil.gov">Jeffrey.Wiseman@cookcountyil.gov</a>. All comments received by October 31, 2016 will be considered by Cook County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

Cook County certifies to HUD that Michael A. Jasso in his capacity as Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Economic Development consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Cook County to use Program funds.

## **OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and Cook County's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of Cook County; (b) Cook County has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD to the attention of the Environmental Officer, at 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2401, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.